

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ricardo Moran on April 15, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1, line 15, the term --that-- is inserted after the term "first location".

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art fails to teach or suggest an affinity-chromatography strip comprising:

(a) a first location having a first movably immobilized flowable component comprising a first bio-reagent and a biopolymer; and

(b) a second location having a second immobilized component comprising a second bio-reagent; wherein said first and second locations are spaced at a first distance along a longitudinal axis of the chromatography strip; and wherein the flowable component, when entirely immersed in a buffer solution optionally comprising a fourth bio-reagent, forms a discrete volume at the first location and includes the following properties:

(i) comprises the first bio-reagent;

(ii) is denser than the buffer solution;

(iii) does not rapidly diffuse into the buffer solution; and

(iv) slowly rolls, under the influence of gravity, over the planar surface of the chromatography strip in the direction of said second location. It is these properties of the flowable component, when it is immersed in a buffer solution, that are considered novel over the prior art, wherein the bio-polymer, which can comprise a protein, such as dextran, in combination with other entities of the flowable component, such as a detergent and a buffer, provides these desired properties.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JACQUELINE DIRAMIO whose telephone number is (571)272-8785. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Shibuya can be reached on 571-272-0806. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jacqueline DiRamio/
Examiner, Art Unit 1641

/GAILENE R. GABEL/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1641

4/21/10